

REMARKS

Prior to examination of this application, it is requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered and considered by the Examiner.

Based upon the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney, so that the present application can receive an early notice of allowance.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (001058-00023).

Respectfully submitted,

By: Tara L. Hoffman
Tara L. Hoffman
Reg. No. 46,510
Attorney for Applicant

BLANK ROME LLP
600 New Hampshire Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20037
Telephone: (202) 772-5800
Fax: (202) 772-5858

Date: March 2, 2005